

YOUTH

Orchard Park

Choir cuts record

STOUFFVILLE — Orchard Park has always had a school choir — but not like this one.

Over 100 students from Grades 5, 6, and 7 are involved this year, and recently brought attention to their talents by placing first in the Newmarket Lions' 20th annual music festival.

Back in 1969, the choir consisted of about 30 Grade 4, 5, and 6 pupils, and under the direction of Ross Phelps, won a second in the Kiwanis competitions. The following year, Barb Wideman and Edna Clendenning took over, and for four years the group met noon and night to practice. At that time, there were no formal music programs offered at the school.

Ron Robbins, the present choir leader, became involved when Edna retired. And when the principal, John Hincks, heard the songs the enthusiastic children rendered, he suggested an optional music course in the curriculum.

The program is in conjunction with a Music Appreciation Program taught by Greg Clapp, concentrating on the history of folk and other tunes, and another instructed by John Leonard, tracing the roots of music in North America — all the way from "Barbershop" to Disco.

Ron, assisted by Barb Wideman and Doreen Brown, says he has little difficulty getting the children to behave during rehearsals.

"Most of the students are very serious about their music, and they

make a real effort. Many stay with the choir as long as they can."

It seems that with anything good, the public can't get enough, so Orchard Park choir is always busy. At Christmas, the biggest concert of its kind was staged at Stouffville High where, the choir joined the Senior Band and S.D.S.S. chorus.

Some members delighted residents at Parkview Home during the holiday season with cheerful carols.

The singers are looking forward to the spring concert, to be held June 3 at the high school. But the biggest project at the moment is the cutting of the first album, which Ron hopes will be released next month.

"We're making 300 — most will probably sell to the parents and grandparents of the children." The record will feature songs from the

Christmas concert, and winning numbers at competitions. As always in life, rewards come only through hard work. The children practiced six times a month since last November for the music festival, and their sights are set on the Kiwanis next year.

Not to be forgotten is accompanist Judy Sutherland.

"They're a fine group," says Ron of the choir. "They work hard, and I enjoy helping them."

And without doubt, Stouffville residents enjoy listening to them.

CORRECTION

Correction in the Shopper's Drug Mart Money Saver in today's newspaper:

Johnson's Diaper Liners 120's should have read \$3.29 ea.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience incurred as a result of this error.

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Eighteen year old Janice Bolton, 19th Avenue, R.R. 2, Markham, will return as a lifeguard and swim instructor at the Stouffville Pool this

summer. A Grade 13 student at S.D.S.S., she plans to enroll at Scarborough College, University of Toronto in a Business and Commerce Course this fall.

Janice Bolton

Girl Next Door

Swim teacher at town pool

By JIM THOMAS STOUFFVILLE — She'll be back. Eighteen year old Janice Bolton, 19th Avenue, R.R. 2, Markham, is rejoining the Stouffville swimming pool staff as a lifeguard-instructor again this summer. It'll be her fourth season. At present,

she's serving in a similar capacity at the Birchmount Pool, Scarborough.

She's our "Girl Next Door".

Janice moved with her parents and sister, Lori to the Dickson's Hill area from Bridlewood, Agincourt, eight years

ago. Her elementary education was obtained at North Bridlewood Public School and Dickson's Hill. This is her final (Grade 13) year at Stouffville High.

Following graduation, she hopes to enrol in a Business and Commerce Course at Scar-

borough College, University of Toronto. Due to the close proximity of the campus, she'll be able to commute back and forth each day.

Janice admits she's an outdoors girl. She enjoys gardening and everything else related to country life. Tennis,

downhill skiing, water skiing and swimming are favorite sports. At one time, she did considerable horseback riding and participated in several shows.

Janice loves her work at the Stouffville Pool, especially assisting little children. Free weekends

are usually spent at the family's cottage on Black Lake in the Haliburton area.

Family trips have included holidays coast-to-coast as well as Florida on several occasions. Some day, Janice hopes to make it to England and Scotland. She has a number of relatives there.

Travelling to S.D.S.S. by bus cuts down on extra-curricular activities, Janice says. She's a school Prefect.

Musically, she plays both the piano and guitar, but strictly for her own enjoyment.

Children with Learning Disabilities

Get to know your child

By RON KING President, Durham North Association for Children with Learning Disabilities How do you manage to keep your rosy outlook? The mortgage company is at the back door, the boss wants you to produce more, the federal government wants money, and everyone is going on strike except Rene Levesque and your minister wonders if you have been sincere in your prayers.

The point of all this is that we are realizing as it becomes more and more painful, that Canadians can no longer live as they have been, or believe what they have in the past.

Canada, the USSR, medicine, energy, gold,

Gunman

fined

\$50

MARKHAM — A Markham youth who pleaded guilty to a charge of careless use of a firearm has been ordered to pay a \$50 fine, or spend seven days in jail.

Christopher Latam, 18, has also been prohibited from owning or possessing a weapon for three years.

In handing down the sentence, Judge F.D. White noted that Latam had been in custody 25 days while awaiting trial on the charge laid by police Jan. 21.

The court was told that Latam had frightened a woman walking a dog along Springdale Road, when he fired a rifle.

Before police could apprehend the youth, he threw the weapon into a river.

"He had been doing some target practise; he had no intention of shooting at anyone," Latam's counsel told the court.

and education are examples of the endless list of constants that have now become variables; the growing list of subjects in which experts are no longer so expert.

In the following paragraphs, there are brief explanations of the term "learning disability", and how this term has come to be the focus of interest for some concerned educators and worried parents.

The Ontario Association for Children with Learning Disabilities defines a learning disabled child as exhibiting a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding and using spoken or written languages. These may be manifested in disorders of listening, talking, reading, writing, spelling or arithmetic. The

primary cause of such dysfunction is not due to visual, hearing, or motor handicaps, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, or to environmental disadvantages.

The Ministry of Education in Ontario has recently issued a similar definition.

Even a cursory examination of this definition points out the fact that the learning disabled child is described by delineating what he or she is not, rather than what that child is.

Also the definition implies learning disabilities are disorders that the child "catches" at school, and becomes "cured" on leaving school. In fact, there are many learning disabled children who have now grown up to be disabled adults and who still suffer

from the lack of ability to organize their lives and as a result, experience the lack of self-worth and the resultant behavior.

For many years the learning disabled person in our school system and in society was simply not understood and therefore, thought to be lazy, a disturber, a very quiet person, a delinquent, or an extremely brilliant person who just couldn't read very well.

Do you see how hard it is to define the problem? A learning disabled person may be poor, retarded, wealthy, or a creative individual who is always losing his possessions or simply unable to write legibly.

I hope I have confused you — but not so much that you don't want to discover more.

Common signs of learning disabilities are: — difficulty or failure

in reading, writing, spelling, or arithmetic; — verbal assignments on a far higher level than written work;

— restlessness, short attention span, hyperactivity;

— poor co-ordination and spatial disorientation;

— frequent anxiety or anger, because of an inability to cope with school or social requirements;

— trouble in auditory and/or visual memory;

— a child whose teacher says he or she could do better if he tried; — lack of organization.

Now that you have this list, do further reading if you feel you or your child may have a problem. By contacting the local A.C.L.L.D. in your area, you can receive further information and guidance.

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Sen. Citizens' Week Senior Citizens' Week is June 15 to 21. To plan various programs for this period, a meeting will be held at Parkview Home, Rupert Avenue, Wed., May 21 at 7:30 p.m. Interested persons in the community are invited to attend.